

# R E A S O N S

Humbly Offered

*By several of the Principal Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Martins Orgars London, against the Passing an Ingrossed BILL (from the Lords) for Erecting a Church for the French in the Church-Yard of that Parish.*

Note.

**T**HE said Inhabitants do not oppose so good a Design as the Building a Church, but are only against the Erecting a Church for the *French* in the place appointed by the Bill: The Purport whereof is to confirm a Lease from the Parson and Churchwardens of the said Parish of *St. Martins Orgars*, of the Church-Yard, unto certain Trustees for Fifty Years, to Erect a Church thereon for *French* Protestants, with liberty for the Parson and Churchwardens during the said Term, to renew the said Lease for Fifty Years, and so on.

That by the Act for Rebuilding of the City of London 22 Car. II. c. 11. the Parish-Churches within the City are not to exceed 51; and the said Parish of *St. Martins Orgars* is thereby united to *St. Clement East-Cheap*, and the Scite and Church-Yard of *St. Martins Orgars* is directed to be inclosed with a Wall, and laid open for a Burial-place for that Parish, and to no other Use whatsoever, which hath been ever since only used for that purpose.

The Erecting a Church on the said Church-Yard is directly contrary to the said Act of Parliament. And by this Bill the sole Power of Renewal of Leases thereof is taken away from the Inhabitants, and Lodged in the Parson and Churchwardens, who may renew such Leases without the consent of the Inhabitants.

Upon the confidence of the said Act of Parliament, several Persons built very good Houses, and took long Leases of Houses on the Adjacent Ground to the said Church-Yard, in hopes the same Yard would continue open for a Burial-place, as by the said Act is directed. But this intended Church will very much darken the Lights of Twelve or Fourteen of the Adjacent Houses, where Houses and Lights were before the Fire, and so take away the Property of the Owners of the said Houses.

*St. Martins-Lane* is very narrow, and if a Church be Built there, the Inhabitants thereabouts will not be able to come to their own Houses.

If this Act Pass, it will be a Precedent for others to apply to this House for the like Acts to enable them to Build on such-like Church-Yards, and other open places in the City, which by the Act were laid open for Air to prevent Pestilence, and are very useful to put Goods in in cases of Fire: And there are already too few open places within this City, and if they be all Built upon, it may prove very prejudicial.

If this intended Church be Erected, Burials will be more chargeable in regard Seats and Pavements in the Church must be taken up which will in effect deprive the poorer sort of their Right of Burial.

It will create a perpetual Settlement for Foreigners in the Heart of the City to the prejudice of our own Merchants and Traders, and endanger the bringing a Charge on the City by Poor.

It will occasion the removal of many dead Bodies to the annoyance of the Neighbourhood.

There are more convenient places for such a Church near the Town which would not prejudice any person, and which have been offered to the *French* at lower Rates than this they seek.

Most of the Parish that were at the Vestry when this Lease was consented to, live remote from the said Church-Yard, and will not be much damnified thereby. However on considering how prejudicial the same will be in the Cases aforesaid, they are now against it.

Note.

The said Parishioners were not apprised of the said Bill when depending in the House of Lords till the same was committed; so that they could not (according to the Rules of that House) be Heard against the whole Bill, but only a part of it, whereby they were deprived of making their defence.

*'Tis hoped this Honourable House, considering the Premisses, will not confirm a Lease made contrary to Law for Foreigners to Erect a Church in a place so prejudicial to many Englishmen when they may have Places as convenient as this without prejudice to any.*



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# REASONS

Against a BILL for Erecting a  
Church for the *French* in the  
Church-Yard of *St. Martins Or-*  
*ans*, near *Cannon-Street*.

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